

Bibliographical Society of Chicago
Year-book

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1901-02

Year-book of the Bib-
liographical Society
of Chicago 1901-1902





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CONTENTS:

	PAGE
ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS - - - -	5
Waukesha meeting - - - -	5
Von Klenze, C. Travels in Italy in the 18th Century, before 1786 (abstract) - - - -	8
Memorial to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Com- pany, St. Louis - - - -	10
Josephson, A. G. S. Some bibliographical desiderata and the ways and means to carry them out (abstract)	14
Third annual report of the council - - - -	20
Magnolia meeting - - - -	23
THOMSON, J. A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMER- ICA - - - -	27
MANN, C. R. HISTORIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF PHYSICS - - - -	31
ROOT, A. S. THE SCOPE OF AN AMERICAN BIBLIO- GRAPHICAL SOCIETY - - - -	41
THOMSON, J. A SUGGESTED PLAN FOR AN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY - - - -	53
JOSEPHSON, A. G. S. PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AN INSTITUTE FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH	57
COUNCIL, ETC. - - - -	63
RESIDENT MEMBERS - - - -	64
NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS - - - -	65
BY-LAWS - - - -	66
PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY - - - -	68

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY AND THE COUNCIL, MAY, 1901, TO JUNE, 1902.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, MAY 1, 1901.

The secretary was asked to arrange for a meeting of such resident and non-resident members as may be present at the annual conference of the American Library Association at Waukesha, Wisconsin, in July. Mr. Josephson was appointed editor of the card index to bibliographical serials. It was decided that members dropped on account of non-payment of dues might be reinstated by the council after full payment of back dues.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, JULY 4, 1901.

A meeting of such members of the society as were in attendance on the convention of the American Library Association was held at the Fountain House at Waukesha, Wisconsin, on the afternoon of July 4, Mr. C. W. Andrews presiding.

Mr. John Thomson, unable to be present, had sent in a paper on "A Bibliographical Society of America,"* which was read by Mr. Roden. An informal discussion followed. Mr. Beer suggested the preparation of a union list of bibliographies in American libraries, supplemented by a collection of such bibliographies as were not to be found anywhere else in the

*Printed in this Year-book, p. 27.

country. Mr. Fletcher pointed out that the fine collection of bibliographical works now being made at the Library of Congress would before long be accessible for loans to all parts of the country. Mr. Josephson suggested that local societies be formed and that the non-resident members be charged with forming such societies in their respective places of residence, to be united through a national council. It was pointed out, however, that a great many people who might be interested in joining a national society live scattered in places where local societies could not be formed. Mr. Andrews thought the better plan would be for the Chicago society to go on a year or so longer and issue a couple of creditable publications, thereby proving its reason for existence, and drawing more non-resident members to its ranks. At the moment when these outnumber the resident members it would be in order to change the name and organization of the society, and enlarge plans and field of work. On motion of Mr. Fletcher it was voted that the chair appoint a committee of three resident members to consider Mr. Thomson's suggestions, and to report at a similar meeting to be held in connection with the next conference of the American Library Association. Mr. Beer moved, and it was voted, that the council be asked to consider the advisability of and take steps towards the compilation of a union list of bibliographies in American libraries.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, OCTOBER 30, 1901.

The following letter was received from Mr. Andrews who was unable to be present:

"To the Council of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. Gentlemen: At a meeting of

the society held in connection with the annual conference of the American Library Association at Waukesha, July 4, 1901, it was voted that the chair appoint a committee of three resident members of the society to consider the question of the organization of a national bibliographical society, and to report at a meeting of those interested in bibliography at the next annual meeting of the American Library Association. It was suggested that the committee might consider (1) the formation of a national society independently of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, or (2) by its development into a national society with local sections, and (3) in case these alternatives did not prove feasible that many of the advantages might be secured through a large increase in the non-resident membership of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago. Not being able to nominate the committee at the time, it seems to me more fitting that the council should take action. . . . I would favor giving the committee free hand in the matter, but I would suggest that they enter into correspondence with the non-resident members of the society and others interested in bibliography if they think best. . . . Yours respectfully, C. W. Andrews, Chairman Waukesha meeting."

In accordance with this suggestion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. W. S. Merrill, chairman, C. W. Perley, and J. W. Thompson. The committee was asked to correspond with non-resident members of the society and others interested in bibliography, and to report to the council before the January meeting of the society.

The secretary suggested that the society send a memorial to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, recommending the appointment of a Commis-

sioner of Bibliography for the exposition, and the arrangement of a bibliographical exhibit. The matter was left in the hands of a committee consisting of the president, secretary, and treasurer, who were to draft a memorial to the company, and also a letter to other societies urging them to take active interest in the proposition. Mrs. Wilmarth announced that she was to leave the city for some months, and asked to be relieved from membership of the council. Her resignation was accepted with regret.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, NOVEMBER 22, 1901.

The first regular meeting of the season was held in the John Crerar Library. The president of the society, Dr. Camillo von Klenze, read a paper on "Travels in Italy in the eighteenth century, before 1786." He said in part:

"The eighteenth century, like the sixteenth, is characterized by a great desire to broaden the horizon of intellectual life. Hence the traveling literature of that time is extremely rich. No country, however, attracted more attention than Italy. A glance at the bibliography in the book by D'Ancona, entitled "*L'Italia alla fine del secolo XVI.*," Citta di Castello, 1895, will show that the public of the eighteenth century took interest in the customs, the governments, the morals, the art, etc., of Italy. A large number of books were put upon the market by Italian publishers, adorned in some cases with expensive copper plates, which were meant to interest foreigners in the beauties of the various cities of the peninsula. Besides, many books appeared which described in detail the cities in Italy and the works of art which they contained. Lastly distinguished men like, for instance,

Addison, were fond of noting their impressions of Italy. Up to about 1750 all these records are characterized by incorrectness and narrowness of point of view. A book by Richard in six volumes, Paris, 1776, and another by La Lande in eight volumes, Paris, 1769, may be regarded as the first successful efforts to describe Italy to the cultured public of Europe. These authors, too, however, lack the ability to furnish more than a dry, though fairly accurate statement. Soon after them, the emotional wave which swept over Europe enabled travelers to give more color to their recitals. But even then, virtually only the remnants of antiquity were adequately appreciated. This is true of many men, among whom we will only mention Goethe's friends, Tischbin and Moritz; furthermore the German author Heinse. Goethe does not go beyond his predecessors. So great is the influence of Winckelmann upon him that he speaks intelligently only of antiquity, and then mentions with great enthusiasm Raphael and Michelangelo, as do his contemporaries. He takes no interest in the Middle Ages, very little in the works of the early Renaissance, and greatly exaggerates the merit of the Bolognese school. In all this he merely follows the taste of his age, as is shown in the works on Italian art by such writers as Richardson, London, 1722; Cochin, Paris, 1758; etc."

The secretary reported that, in accordance with the decision at the meeting in Waukesha, the council had appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. W. S. Merrill, C. W. Perley, and J. W. Thompson, to consider the question of founding a national bibliographical society, and to correspond concerning this matter with the non-resident members of this society, and others.

The council submitted the following memorial with the recommendation that it be sent to the committee of education of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company:

“To the Honorable Committee on Education of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, St. Louis.

“Gentlemen: The Bibliographical Society of Chicago, an organization founded ‘to encourage and promote bibliographical study and research,’ having due regard for the great advances made in bibliographical research and studies in the United States, and being of the opinion that the widespread interest now manifested in bibliographical labors merits the attention of your Honorable Exposition Company, begs leave herewith respectfully to submit to your Honorable Committee the following proposal, namely:

“That your Honorable Committee recommend the appointment of a Commissioner of Bibliography for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition whose duties shall be:

“1, To have supervision and final control of all bibliographical publications that may be issued in connection with the Exposition, and to undertake, for his own part, the editing of a series of bibliographies of subjects relating to the Louisiana purchase, and the political, industrial, and intellectual development of the territory concerned, and other subjects that may prove pertinent.

“2, To collect a complete set of all printed matter relating to the Exposition and to compile an accurate catalogue thereof.

“3, To arrange for an international bibliographical exhibit, with the idea of keeping the same intact after the close of the Exposition as a permanent bibliographical library.

"The development of public libraries during the last quarter century has been very remarkable, and it is with great satisfaction that this society learns of the plans of Mr. Frederick M. Crunden, the able librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, for a comprehensive exhibit showing the development and working of free libraries. Closely allied to the work of the more scholarly class of libraries is the preparation of bibliographical material and the pursuit of bibliographical investigation, the results of which are so manifestly of the first importance to the student engaged in research.

"It would be particularly striking to set forth the wonderful growth of that part of our country known as the 'Louisiana Purchase,' through a bibliographical presentation of the literature dealing with the history of that section. Such bibliographies, besides rendering distinct and valuable assistance to the historical student, would serve at the same time to indicate the present standpoint, methods, and achievements of that important branch of scholarly research called scientific bibliography.

"The Bibliographical Society of Chicago, in submitting this proposal, begs to hope for full and careful deliberation of the same by your Honorable Committee, and ventures to add that it is prepared to render, through its properly constituted officers, any assistance which your Honorable Committee may desire in the furtherance of this or similar plans looking to the recognition by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of a widespread and important department of scientific activity.

"Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the society,

"CAMILLO VON KLENZE, *President.*

"AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON, *Secretary.*"

The recommendation of the council was adopted, and the secretary was directed to send the memorial to the said committee, and also to send copies of the same to other societies and institutions, asking them to endorse the plan.

The following new members were elected: Miss Mary M. Nelson, Knoxville, Tennessee; Messrs. G. F. Bowerman, Wilmington, Delaware; L. H. Dielman, Annapolis, Delaware; E. W. Dow, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Luther A. Brewer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; E. G. Swem and A. J. Norton, Chicago.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, JANUARY 30, 1902.

The second regular meeting of the season was held at the residence of Mr. F. I. Carpenter, 5533 Woodlawn Avenue.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved, the secretary reported that Mrs. M. H. Wilmarth, vice-president of the society, had resigned from the council, and that the vacancy had been filled by the election of Mr. J. W. Thompson, already member of the council, to be vice-president, and of Mr. W. S. Merrill to be member of the council. The secretary also reported that the suggestion that a Commissioner of Bibliography be appointed at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition had so far received endorsement by the American Historical Association, the Wisconsin State Historical Society, the New York Historical Society, President C. W. Eliot of Harvard University, and the directors of the John Crerar Library. In the absence of Mr. Merrill, Mr. Thompson read the report of the committee on establishing a national bibliographical society, stating that the committee had sent a circular letter to all mem-

bers and to a number of outsiders for approbation or criticism. One hundred and twelve copies were sent out, and up to January 27 forty-three replies had been received. Among the replies was one from Miss Mabel McIlvaine, with a special suggestion: "A class of persons who, if properly directed, might be useful in co-operative bibliographical work are the graduates from library schools. Might we not suggest themes for the bibliographies compiled by these students and then enlarge and edit them? If every library in the country recognized bibliography as a part of its proper duties, and gave its employes a portion of time for compilation, it would be profitable to all concerned." The committee reported that they favored enlarging the non-resident membership of the society, and maintaining a high standard of scholarship in its publications until it shall deserve the name of the Bibliographical Society of America, with all that such a title should imply.

The committee was continued, and was asked to communicate with bibliographers and librarians not yet connected with the society, and to make its final report at a meeting of resident and non-resident members of the society to be held in connection with the conference of the American Library Association in June.

Mr. Thompson then moved that the society recommend to librarians of certain libraries that some time be granted to members of their staff for independent bibliographical work, as had been suggested by Miss McIlvaine. This motion was amended by Mr. F. I. Carpenter to the effect that the council be requested to formulate some plan to carry out this suggestion, and was then accepted. A short paper on "Some

bibliographical desiderata and the ways and means to carry them out" was then read by Mr. Josephson, who said in part:

"The function of bibliography, I take it, is the recording, classification, and evaluation of printed literature. Bibliographical research is the research into the literary sources for scientific investigation. The century just past has been one of unusual activity in the field of productive scholarship. The literary production of this period is simply immense. But it is only in a limited degree available to students on account of the scantiness and insufficiency of bibliographical records. The first thing that an investigator into any subject usually has to do is to work out the bibliography of it, thus spending on preliminary labor valuable time that could have been employed to better purpose. There are certain minds to whom this kind of research has a peculiar attraction; but it may be doubted whether the most vigorous and original of investigators are to be found among them, or whether these are not just the ones who feel this preliminary digging to be a distasteful drudgery. If a division of the field could be made by which the productive scholars could be relieved from the preliminary search after sources, and this work done for them by persons particularly fitted for that kind of work, it would be a great boon. It is my belief that before many years have gone we will have well on the way a central institute where bibliographical research will be carried out in the interest of productive scholarship. Such an institute must be international in character and affiliations. As there is a great mass of literature that is not to be found on this side of the ocean, and that very likely never will be found here, it would be neces-

sary to establish relations with scientific institutions in Europe or to found special affiliated institutes there." Three special undertakings were outlined: a bibliography of bibliographies, a bibliography of serials, and a bibliography of incunabula. The first "should not be made in one single volume, but as a series of monographs, each dealing with the bibliography of a subject or group of subjects. It should be made in co-operation by bibliographers and specialists." The second should include ordinary periodicals, serials, transactions, etc., giving changes of titles, publishers, and editors, frequency of issue, etc. The speaker had made some rough calculations as to the number of serials in existence and had come to the result that while they would exceed forty thousand, they would probably not reach fifty thousand. Hardly fifty per cent of them were to be found in this country. It would therefore seem clear that affiliations in Europe would be necessary, as the work must be founded on examinations of the publications themselves, the only way of making a reliable bibliography. As to the third undertaking, the speaker described Dr. Dziatzko's "Plan eines aller bekannten und noch zu ermittelnden Wiegendrucke umfassenden Katalogs," printed in no. 14 of his *Sammlung bibliothekswissenschaftlicher Arbeiten*, Leipzig, 1901. After a review of existing catalogues of incunabula the author presents in this paper six theses as the results of his investigations, to the effect that a complete, thorough, and reliable description of incunabula is desirable from both a scientific and practical point of view, that what is wanted is one comprehensive catalogue of all incunabula in public libraries all over the world, that the time is now ripe for such an undertaking, that the catalogue should be made in

concise form with full descriptions only of especially rare and important works, but with references to the libraries where each one can be found, and that the undertaking should be in charge of an international commission. The last thesis reads as follows:

"The search after and first short cataloguing of incunabula is to be done for Germany in several districts, each of which is to be treated under the direction of a central library. For other countries decision must be postponed. The final description is to be made by several co-operators either in a central office or in several places under the direction of such an office."

To carry out these plans a bibliographical institute, on lines described on previous occasions,* would be necessary. "Its location should be in New York or Washington, so as to be near the largest library centers and not too distant from Europe. It should have staff officers in such centers as Chicago and San Francisco, and also in London, Paris, Berlin, and Rome, at least. Its staff should consist not only of bibliographers, but of scientists in various fields. The institute should undertake bibliographical work on its own initiative and also compile special lists to order. The entries should all be made uniform, and each entry electrotyped so as to be always available for future use. The cost of running an institution of this kind on a large scale I have calculated at about fifty thousand dollars a year. Sale of its publications might be expected to bring in some money, but hardly more than to cover the cost of printing. What is needed, therefore, is an endowment." Mr. Josephson ended with a plea that the society "make suggestions to persons

* See the *Yearbook* of this society for 1900-1901, p. 18 ff., *The Dial* for July, 1900, and *Science* for Oct. 18, 1900.

or institutions that might be likely to take interest in the founding of such an institute."

In the discussion that followed Mr. Thompson mentioned among the desiderata a bibliography of glossaries. A bibliography of articles in scientific periodicals was also mentioned, and Mr. Carpenter expressed the hope that the influence of the society might tend to improve the character of general bibliographies, which were at the present time made up chiefly of titles of popular articles.

Mr. Thompson suggested the possibility that the Carnegie Institution might interest itself in the establishment of a bibliographical institute. On motion the question as to what the society could do to promote the plan was referred to the council. The Free Library of Philadelphia and Mr. George Watson Cole, New York City, were elected members of the society.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 15, 1902.

The question as to what the society could do to promote the plan for a bibliographical institute was discussed. As Mr. Josephson told that the proposition had been laid before the Trustees of the Carnegie Institution, the council determined that no action was necessary.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, MARCH 6, 1902.

The third regular meeting of the season was held in the John Crerar Library. The following amendment to the by-laws had been proposed by the secretary: "Section III. The affairs of the society shall be in the hands of a council, consisting of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three other members, *one of whom shall be a non-resident member*, to

be elected at the annual meeting of the society." It was proposed that the words printed in italics be added. The amendment had been discussed by the council and referred to the committee on a national society. The committee had, however, not yet reported. After a short discussion, in which it was pointed out that there was nothing in the by-laws to prohibit non-resident members from becoming members of the council, the amendment was laid on the table, with the suggestion that the nomination committee be instructed to nominate a non-resident member in case the committee on national society reported favorably.

The secretary reported (1) that the council had decided to issue a reprint of Augustus De Morgan's paper "On the difficulty of correct description of books"; (2) that twenty-five dollars had been appropriated for the binding of books in the society's library, and that the books would be loaned to members, subject to rules to be framed; (3) that the indexing of bibliographical periodicals had been well started; (4) that the council recommended that a nomination committee be appointed.

A motion that the president appoint a nomination committee was carried.

Dr. C. R. Mann read a very interesting paper on "Histories and Bibliographies of Physics." * Discussion followed.

The secretary reported that he had received information from the secretary of the American Library Association that the program committee of the Association wished this society to take charge of a part of the fourth general session at the annual conference of

*Printed in this Year-book, p. 31.

the association in Magnolia, June 19, "for a report on and discussion of the question of a bibliographical institute"; also that arrangements were being made for a meeting of the society during the same conference to discuss the formation of a national bibliographical society. Both of these matters were referred to the council with power to act.

The secretary read a letter which he had received from the Chief of the Department of Education of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, in regard to the proposed Commissioner of Bibliography, asking for estimates. The letter was referred to the secretary for answer.

Mr. Elmer J. Robinson, Chicago, was elected a member of the society.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, MARCH 8, 1902.

The secretary reported that the president, while unable to be present at the meeting, had sent him the names of the members of the nomination committee, namely: Messrs. Anderson H. Hopkins, chairman, Frederic I. Carpenter, Julius Rosenthal. The committee on national society reported against the election of a non-resident member of the council at present.

The program for the special meeting at Magnolia was discussed, and the following program agreed on: 1. Opening address: "The scope of an American bibliographical society;" 2. "Plan for an American bibliographical society with local branches." Messrs. C. B. Roden and A. G. S. Josephson were asked to prepare papers on the plan for a bibliographical institute for the fourth general session of the annual conference of the American Library Association.

THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, APRIL
25, 1902.

The third annual meeting was held in the John Crerar Library, Friday, April 25, 1902.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. William Muss-Arnolt, Chicago; Kendall Banning, Hanover, New Hampshire; T. F. Currier, Cambridge, Massachusetts; J. T. Gerould, Columbia, Missouri; K. D. Jessen, Cambridge, Massachusetts; C. A. Nelson, New York; J. S. Nollen, Grinnell, Iowa; W. H. Tillinghast, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Miss M. W. Plummer, Brooklyn; Miss May Simonds, St. Louis.

The secretary read the following annual report of the council:

"The third annual report of the Council of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago.

"The council has met nine times during the year. To fill the vacancy caused by Mrs. Wilmarth's resignation as vice-president, Mr. J. W. Thompson was elected vice-president and Mr. W. S. Merrill member of the council. The committee on publications has issued the second Year-book of the society with similar contents as the first, and has now in press a special publication, a reprint of Augustus De Morgan's paper 'On the difficulty of correct description of books,' originally printed in the *Companion to the Almanac*, London, 1853. The Year-book has been and the other publication will be sent to members of the society free of charge.

"The work of indexing bibliographical serials, mentioned in the last report, has been delayed on account of the slowness with which subscriptions were received which made it doubtful whether the Publishing Board of the American Library Association would

be able to print the cards. The publication is now secured, however, and the first lot of copy has been sent to the board.

“At a special meeting of the resident and non-resident members of the society in connection with the annual conference of the American Library Association at Waukesha, Wisconsin, July 4, 1901, a paper by Mr. John Thomson, Philadelphia, entitled ‘A bibliographical society of America,’ was read and gave rise to a discussion on the desirability of the formation of such a society. The matter was left in the hands of a committee who should investigate the sentiment in regard to this proposition and report at a similar meeting to be held in connection with this year’s conference of the American Library Association, which is to be held at Magnolia, near Boston, in June of this year. This committee, which consists of Messrs. W. S. Merrill, C. W. Perley, and J. W. Thompson, has corresponded with interested persons in and outside the society, and has already submitted a preliminary report to the society. According to information lately given to the secretary by the chairman of the committee the results have so far been as follows: Thirty-three members and thirty-eight non-members have responded favorably to the idea of an American Bibliographical Society, and of these five members and fifteen non-members have expressed their preference for the immediate formation of such a society, while the remainder either expressly stated that they would prefer to see the Chicago society develop more slowly into an American society, or did not express any preference either way. Two members and four non-members answered unfavorably, and of these one member and the four non-members suggested affiliation

with the American Library Association. Three members and six non-members acknowledged the receipt of the committee's letter, but for one reason or another did not commit themselves to the plan at all.

"At the first regular meeting of the society during the past year a memorial was adopted to be sent to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, suggesting that a Commissioner of Bibliography be appointed for the St. Louis Exposition. Copies of this memorial were sent also to a number of scientific societies and other institutions in the country, with request for their endorsement. The secretary has had some correspondence in the matter with the authorities of the Exposition Company, and it is understood that the matter will be determined in the near future; the company has received endorsements of the plan from a number of societies, including the American Historical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Twenty new members have joined the society during the year; one has resigned, and eleven have, by non-payment of the second year's dues, signified their withdrawal. The society has now one hundred and seven members, of whom forty-one are non-resident. Chicago, April 25, 1902. For the Council, Camillo von Klenze, President; Aksel G. S. Josephson, Secretary."

Abstract of the Treasurer's Report, 1901-1902: "The total number of members in good standing at the close of the current year is 71; members delinquent one year, 26; total membership enrolled, 97. Receipts: from membership fees, \$176; from sale of Yearbooks, \$15; from sale of Bibliographies of bibliographies, \$43.50; total, \$234.50. Cash on hand at the beginning of the current year, \$104.12; total, \$338.62.

Expenditures, \$199.91, leaving a balance, May 1, 1902, of \$138.71."

Professor Francis W. Shepardson then read a paper on "The Work of the Public Archives Commission."

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, JUNE 18, 1902.

A meeting was held at Magnolia, Massachusetts, in connection with the annual conference of the American Library Association, on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 18. The meeting was opened by Mr. Josephson, who was elected temporary chairman and appointed Mr. C. W. Perley temporary secretary.

Addresses on "The scope of an American Bibliographical Society"* and "A suggested plan for an American Bibliographical Society,"† were delivered by Messrs. Azariah S. Root and John Thomson respectively.

The report of the special committee (W. Stetson Merrill, Clarence W. Perley, James W. Thompson) appointed to consider the matter of a national society was submitted, reading in part, as follows:

"The committee decided to endorse the opinion of Mr. C. W. Andrews as expressed by him at the Waukesha meeting, viz.: that 'the Chicago society go on a year or so longer, and issue a couple of creditable publications, thereby proving its reason for existence, and drawing more non-resident members to its ranks. At the moment when these outnumber the resident members, it would be in order to change the name and organization of the society, and enlarge plans and field of work.'

"A circular letter was prepared and sent out to all

*Printed in this Year-book, p. 41.

†Printed in this Year-book, p. 53.

members of the society, and to nearly as many more persons interested in bibliographical work; the circular was accompanied by a 'return postal card' on which correspondents were requested to express their opinion of the committee's plan, and to add any comments that seemed called for.

"The returns received from eighty-seven correspondents indicate a very decided approval of the notion of a national society; even those opposed—seven, including two members—favor a national bibliographical movement, but think it can be conducted better through the American Library Association. Twenty expressly approve of a national society; of these, seven are members. Fifty-one favor the plan of the committee; of these, twenty-one are members. Nine are non-committal, including three members.

"Turning now to the question of immediate organization or prior increase in our non-resident membership, five have expressed themselves distinctly in favor of forming a national society at once, while sixty-seven think the national body should come as an expansion of the present society. This gives a proportion of seventy-seven per cent to five and one-half per cent against immediate organization.

"The matter of local societies or branches was submitted to our correspondents by the committee, and nine expressed approval.

"The question of organization, whether the national society shall be a federation of local societies or 'lodges,' or a central body with branches, may well be left for consideration when our non-resident membership list shall give indication of the relative bibliographic strength of the several sections of the country.

"The proposition that national bibliographic enter-

prises should be left to the American Library Association was not originally contemplated by the committee, who received the first suggestion to that effect from among the latest replies to circulars addressed to non-members.

"The proposal, if it is to be entertained at all, seems to call for a joint discussion on the part of the two present organizations concerned, and as such to fall outside the scope of this committee's present inquiry.

"The committee, then, report to the society that their judgment as to a national bibliographical society, as stated above, has been supported by a large majority of members and other bibliographers addressed, and the committee submit it thus reinforced to the society."

In the short discussion which followed, Mr. Bisbee advocated measures to secure the support of the Carnegie Institution. Mr. Nelson urged that the work of the proposed society could be better done as an affiliated society than by treating it as a section of the American Library Association. Mr. Roden thought that the broad scope of the committee proposed by Mr. Thomson rendered further discussion unnecessary.

Dr. Billings, speaking as a trustee of the Carnegie Institution, stated that, in his opinion, the institution could not be looked to for any support as yet. It would want to know very thoroughly the capabilities of the proposed director; what he had done; also how much the cost would be; would want to have *results* first. No established institution would undertake to support such a bibliographical society otherwise.

In accordance with Mr. Thomson's recommendation in his address the following resolution was passed:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to draft rules and regulations for the

government of the American Bibliography Society, and to devise a plan for raising the necessary funds for carrying out the same; and that the power to act and organize such a bibliographical society with local branches be entrusted to that committee, it being deliberately recorded that all steps taken during the current year shall be tentative only, with a view to the reconsideration and better adaptation of the ends to the means at the next meeting of the American Library Association, and that the committee confer with the proper authorities of the American Library Association and the Bibliographical Society of Chicago to bring about accomplishment of this project."

"The Chairman appointed as members of the committee, Messrs. John Thomson, Philadelphia, chairman, Wilberforce Eames, New York, and William C. Lane, Cambridge."

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
IN CHARGE OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF
CHICAGO, JULY 19, 1902.

The first part of the fourth general session of the 1902 conference of the American Library Association was in charge of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago for the discussion of the plan for a bibliographical institute. Mr. C. W. Andrews presided.

The meeting was opened with a paper by Mr. C. B. Roden on "The organization of bibliographical work in the past." The speaker outlined shortly the work of the Institut international de bibliographie in Brussels, the Concilium bibliographicum in Zurich, and the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature in London, and showed the value of organized effort in the field of bibliography.

Mr. A. G. S. Josephson then read a paper on a "Plan for the organization of an institute for bibliographical research." *

* Printed in this Year-book, p. 57.

**A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA,
BY JOHN THOMSON.**

As a society, we are not yet two years old, and the subject with which we are trying to deal is so large and its ramifications so wide that we may be forgiven if we acknowledge that not very much has been accomplished. We are, however, entitled at the same time to congratulation if we realize that an immense work may be accomplished by the adoption of a definite line of action on which we all can agree and to the accomplishment of which all our efforts may be directed.

I venture to say that probably the most useful and at the same time the most practicable task will be to procure the services at some (to be agreed upon) headquarters of a certain number of ex-officio and one or two paid officers whose duty it should be to collect together copies of all current, and as circumstances may permit past, bibliographical works. A great bibliographical library for reference purposes is a very important desideratum. I am not myself disposed to think that bibliographers as a class will ever be recognized as the useful bees in the literary hive. They certainly will not be the drones. The work of bibliography is one of a self-sacrificing nature, in which the work and industry of the compiler are rarely recognized; they are hardly ever understood by those who have not worked on bibliographical lines. The labor-

ers in this field can only be likened to those who build cells from which the honey is destined to be carried off by more fortunate beings. This does not at all imply that there is no room for an important bibliographical society. It may possibly be even considered an argument to prove that such an organization is absolutely needed at the present time. The point for consideration seems to be, how can the accomplishment of this end be best attained? Individually I should go at it in a very practical way, and though the society when established could not hope to have the general reputation of such societies as the Rowfant, Caxton, Grolier, and Philobiblon (I name three or four only of the book clubs best known to all of us) it would need but a few years steady work to make the Bibliographical Society of America an important and highly valued institution. I would offer as a suggestion that possibly it might be as well to make it a national society rather than a society of Chicago, Washington, Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. The best way to start would be to extend the borders and widen the scope of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago and undertake some scheme which will secure the interest of persons widely scattered. Each great city should have its local center or committee, and all these local centers should concentrate their work in the national society. Whilst it might be undesirable to try to concentrate a national interest in a Chicago, Boston, New York, or San Francisco institution, the centralization of the work might be begun by making the Library of Congress the hub of the scheme. A first annual meeting could be held at Washington and afterwards in various convenient places, but at whatever place the national center is to be fixed, thither-

wards it should be the duty and interest of every local center to collect and bring together every book on bibliography that could be procured, and there should be deposited every item of bibliographical work executed by the different centers. I cannot but think that there are many university libraries, many public libraries, and even some private library owners who would be glad to assist in the development of so important an undertaking. When books are published, whether it is considered a hardship or not, copies are deposited in certain national collections, and though such a bibliographical society as is now being considered could not compel the deposit of publications within the lines of its interest, it is impossible to doubt that it would be a pleasure and a pride to editors and compilers of bibliographical lists to have their works deposited in some such center as I am pleading for. This would in no sense conflict with the value of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, but would merely enlarge its scope. To speak of a very small matter, I have been interested through the Philobiblon Club, and later through the Free Library of Philadelphia, in gathering information together on the Early Bibliography of the Philippines. Wherever such a society as we are now talking about is in existence, we undoubtedly should have the interest of such gentlemen as Father Middleton and others of like tastes in developing the collection of the Philippine bibliography and we could ensure great results. A copy of the Bulletin of the Free Library on this matter reached the hands of a gentleman who recently visited Madrid. He was so much interested in the matter that he purchased and forwarded to the Free Library nineteen valuable works upon the subject.

Of course, if I were present at your coming discussion, I should probably be able to say many more useful things than I am doing, as I do not know the exact scope of the debate which will take place. It would seem to me that the first thing to be done would be to gather together the suffrages of our existing Chicago society members and see whether, while retaining that as a local center, enough interest could be created to set on foot some such national society as I have outlined.

It would probably be no difficult matter to procure suitable headquarters by purchasing a house on bonds issued to the members, the house to be maintained at a moderate cost, as are the headquarters of the Rowfant, Grolier, and Philobiblon clubs. The importance of the matter is such that it should be thoroughly considered before it is put on one side as impracticable. I believe it can be done, and I respectfully submit the suggestion for the consideration of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, with the full assurance that it will receive careful consideration, and I shall be disappointed if it does not result in the adoption of some well and carefully considered scheme which will result in the institution of a much-needed Bibliographical Society of America.

**HISTORIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF PHYSICS,
BY C. R. MANN.**

The study of the science of Physics, like that of any other of the expressions of activity of the human mind, may be approached from two different points of view: First, the attention may be confined to the study of phenomena and of the inductions based upon them. These inductions are seen to lead to what are called laws of Physics. From the method of their establishment it is evident that these laws are but résumés of physical experience; they are classifications of phenomena according to some principle of analogy. The study of Physics is usually approached in this way, a way which is open to the very serious objection that the student is very apt to think that the principles or laws with which he becomes familiar are laws in the judicial sense, and not mere résumés of experience in the formation of which the mind which makes the résumé also plays a part. This must be evident to any one who considers the nature of classification and induction. There is always behind the induction, in the mind of the man who makes it, some idea or principle upon which the classification is based.

In the second place, the science of Physics may be studied as if it were a vital organism. We say without hesitation that this science grows and develops, expressions in which it is tacitly agreed that we are dealing with a living organism, for what grows and develops

must surely have life in some form. We may then fairly put the question, "In what does the life of science consist?" The answer to this question seems to me to be "In the ideas and conceptions upon which the inductions and classifications of the science are based." Examples may help to make this clear. Ptolemy explained the solar system upon one set of ideas, Copernicus on another. Sir Isaac Newton deduced the laws of optics with the help of certain conceptions of rapidly moving particles of matter. Young and Fresnel classified those same observed phenomena upon the basis of ideas of waves in an elastic medium. Faraday and Maxwell resumed the same experimental facts by conceiving them to be manifestations of electric and magnetic forces. The development in these sciences is thus seen to consist in the changes in the conceptions and ideas which lie at the basis of the classifications and inductions which lead to scientific laws. Hence, if we would study science as if it were a living organism, we must investigate the ideas which are back of it and which form its real life.

When studied in this latter way it will be found that the science of Physics is not an isolated subject in the thought of mankind. For example, the discovery of America, the propounding of the Copernican system of astronomy, the invention of printing, the Reformation, and the first glimmerings of observational methods of induction in the inductive sciences in the works of Paracelsus, Bruno, and others of their contemporaries, all appeared in the world about the same time, and may be considered to be but different manifestations of some one impulse which was acting at that time upon the composite mind of humanity. The point may be made clearer by considering the state of the European mind

before these events. One of the most characteristic factors in the development of the mind of mankind during the Middle Ages was the gradual growth of the spirit of rationalism. As this spirit gained in influence, the power of the church declined. This was due to the fact that many of the dogmas of the church, like that of exclusive salvation and infant damnation, became repulsive to reasoning men. In order to retain its hold upon mankind and prevent that worst of sins, heresy, the church had recourse to pious frauds. Miracles were invented, sanctified relics became numerous, and the church tried diligently to support its creed by imposture and falsehood. Thus a spirit of lying became prevalent and was even made systematic and raised to the dignity of a regular doctrine. This habit of continual falsehood became so powerful that the sense of truth and the love of it, both essentials of the scientific spirit, became almost extinct in the human mind. It is not, therefore, strange that science could not thrive in such an atmosphere, and that when this love of truth was revived, the Reformation and the other events mentioned above followed as a necessity. This example is mentioned to illustrate what seems to be a general fact, namely, that the fundamental concepts of science at a given epoch are of the same nature as the general concepts which are characteristic of that age.

Now, how is Physics to be studied in this way? Evidently by a study of its history, provided, of course, that the history be of the right sort. In the light of what has been said above, it appears that a history of Physics is of the right sort if it brings out clearly the life of Physics, i. e., if it shows what the fundamental concepts of the science at any epoch are, if it shows how those concepts change from time to time and how they grow,

and if it brings out clearly the relations which exist at any epoch between the particular ideas of Physics and the general ideas which are at the basis of the civilization of that epoch, and points out how those particular ideas have developed in a certain way because the more general ones have done so.

Having established this ideal of a history of Physics, we may well ask whether any of the existing histories of the subject fulfill the requirements. Have any such works been written by an artist rather than by an artisan? For it has been written:* “The artist in history may be distinguished from the artisan in history; for here, as in all other provinces, there are artists and artisans—men who labor mechanically in a department, without eye for the Whole, not feeling that there is a Whole, and men who inform and ennoble the humblest department with an idea of the Whole, and who know that only in the Whole is the Partial to be truly discerned. The proceedings and duties of these two, in regard to history, must be altogether different. Not, indeed, that each has not a real worth, in his several degree. The simple husbandman can till his field, and by knowledge he has gained of its soil, sow it with fit grain, though the deep rocks and central fires are unknown to him; his little crop hangs under and over the firmament of stars, and sails through whole untracked celestial spaces, between Aries and Libra; nevertheless, it ripens for him in due season, and he gathers it safe into his barn. As a husbandman he is blameless in disregarding those higher wonders; but as a thinker, and faithful inquirer into Nature, he were wrong. So likewise is it with the historian who examines some special aspect of history, and from this or that combination of circumstances—political,

* Carlyle's Essay on History, 1830.

moral, economical—and the issues it has led to, infers that such and such properties belong to human society, and that the like circumstances will produce the like issue; which inference, if other trials confirm it, must be held true and practically valuable. He is wrong only, and an artisan, when he fancies that these properties, discovered or discoverable, exhaust the matter, and sees not, at every step, that it is inexhaustible."

Having thus established the ideal by which we shall judge the histories of Physics, let us see how closely the published works on the subject satisfy that ideal. We are compelled to admit at the start that there is one characteristic in the ideal history which no one has as yet attempted to embody in his work. This is the recognition of the relations between the concepts of Physics and those of other subjects; i. e., the writers of physical history have shown themselves to be artisans rather than artists; they have failed to perceive that there is a Whole and that only in the Whole is the Partial to be truly discerned. It is thus evident that this discernment of the Whole is beyond the present attainments of the scientific historian. Its realization is reserved for some future historian, and offers to him a most enticing and remunerative field.

If, then, we pass over this requisite of an ideal history as being at the present time a utopian ideal, what do we find? We shall find that there already exist several very satisfactory books upon the history of our subject. Thus some of the chapters in Whewell's *History of the inductive sciences*, and especially some in his *History of scientific ideas*, as the later editions of his *Philosophy of the inductive sciences* are called, will be found to be very satisfactory. The best part of the work is, in my opinion, that which deals with the ancients and the Middle Ages;

in fact, in this portion of the book, he seems sometimes to move toward the realization of the first point in our ideal history — the point which we have dismissed as at present utopian. In the later parts of the work he falls back into the much easier task of describing discoveries in their chronological order and explaining them in popular ways.

Another excellent work is that of Mach, *Die Mechanik und ihre Entwicklung*, 1895, of which there is an English translation. This author carefully analyzes the conceptions upon which the mechanics is based, and shows how those conceptions have varied from time to time. Especially satisfactory is his chapter on the Analytical Mechanics, in which he shows how far Newton developed the subject, using as his fundamental conception the attraction between two points. His method was purely geometrical and synthetic. He then points out how Euler and Maclaurin introduced the idea of resolving each such force into forces along three co-ordinate axes; and further, how finally Lagrange, by his introduction of the ideas of the calculus of variations, completed the structure. The succession of ideas here outlined is admirably treated by our author.

The historical works of Todhunter are of great value. His method is simple, direct, and appeals strongly to a scientific mind. Thus in his *History of the mathematical theories of attraction and the figure of the earth*, 1873, he takes up every memoir which had been published upon that subject, analyzes it carefully, and gives his opinion as to its merit and the importance of its bearing upon the subject in hand. The same is true of his *History of elasticity*. It seems to me that a student could not possibly get a better grasp of these two subjects than by a careful study of these two works. Todhunter's

style is rigidly scientific, being clear, exact, and extremely terse.

Of the older histories of our subject those of Priestley deserve mention. This many-sided man composed, besides his theological works and his scientific works, two histories of Physics; one, a *History of electricity*, 1769; the other, a *History of vision, light, and colours*, 1772. In the preface to the latter he says it is his intention to write the histories of the other branches of the subject if the reception of the one on Vision, Light, and Colours shows that his efforts are appreciated. As the other works never appeared, it would seem that the time was not yet ripe for a history of Optics. This volume contains as an appendix a list of the works which were consulted in its preparation—a rather interesting little bibliography of the subject.

There are also the treatises of Fischer, *Geschichte der Physik*, 8 vols., 1801, and of Libes, *Histoire philosophique des progrès de la physique*, 4 vols., 1810. Both of these are rather biographical dictionaries than histories. Saverien's *Histoire des progrès de l'esprit humain dans les sciences exactes*, 1766, should also come under this head. On the other hand, Powell's *History of natural philosophy*, 1834, is a very creditable little work. In fact, it deserves a far greater recognition than it has received. It has characteristics somewhat similar to the works of Whewell. There are also chapters in Montucla's *Histoire des mathématiques*, 4 vols., 1801-3, which deal with physical subjects, such as mechanics and optics. However, inasmuch as its contents are largely mathematical, its discussion does not properly belong here. It is, as the German bookseller of whom I bought a copy remarked, "ein sehr quellenreiches Werk."

Of the more recent Histories of Physics Marie, *Histoire des sciences mathématiques et physiques*, 1883-8, is an ambitious work in 12 volumes. It consists of a series of short biographies with a list of the writings of each man and a criticism of both. It is interesting reading, for it is often well told, and there are frequent anecdotes thrown in without extra charge. Caverni, *Storia del metodo sperimentale in Italia*, 5 vols., 1891, describes mainly discoveries and instruments. There are, further, the German works of Rosenberger, 1882; Heller, 1882; Danne-
mann, 1896; Hoppe, 1883; Poggendorff, 1879; Gerland, 1892; and Dühring, 1887. All of these, though marked with the careful, thorough, and plodding scholarship of the nation which produced them, are not, in my opinion, true histories in the light of the ideal which has been adopted above. The same is true of the most recent work on the subject, namely, Cajori's *History of physics*, 1899. In this book the entire treatment of the wonderful mental growth and the marked changes in intellectual life which marked the end of the middle ages — changes to whose operation the science of Physics owes its origin — is contained in one short paragraph. The book is well written and its contents are presented in an interesting way, but it cannot be regarded as more than a reminder that the history of our science deserves attention.

There are numerous other works which contain chapters upon portions of our subject. Thus, Libri, *Histoire des sciences mathématiques en Italie*, 4 vols., 1865, is very valuable. Also Pouchet, *Histoire des sciences naturelles au moyen age*, 1855, and Cuvier, *Histoire des sciences naturelles*, 3 vols., 1831-8, contain some treatment of Physics along with that of the other sciences.

From the above discussion it should be clear that an ideal history of Physics, or one which approaches somewhere near to that ideal, is a much desired and needed thing. That such a work would receive a warm welcome is evident when we note that the works of Whewell passed through three editions in ten years and have been reprinted several times since and are still carried by the Appletons as one of their regular books. It has also been translated into German. The work of Mach is now in its fourth German edition and has been translated into English. These are the best, in my opinion too, of the histories of science.

A satisfactory history should then be written, all the more since Whewell's work ended in 1847. The first step in the preparation of such a history seems to me to be the compiling of a bibliography. Now, while Astronomy has its Lalande, its Houzeau and Lancaster, its Weidler, and others, Physics can boast of nothing better than Poggendorff's *Biographisch-litterarisches Handwörterbuch zur Geschichte der exacten Wissenschaften*. This is extremely valuable as a work of reference, but it is not at all complete as a bibliography. The author expressly states that he has included in the work no one concerning whom he could find no biographical record. This being so he has, as he himself acknowledges, omitted many books which should be in a bibliography. There are partial bibliographies like the *Bibliographie neerlandaise* of Bierens de Haan, 1883. This is a fairly complete list of the works in Mathematics and Physics published in Dutch during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. There are quite a number of smaller bibliographies of the works written by Italians in various towns. In fact, the Italian towns seem, now that their glory is in the past, to show a

desire to exhibit their departed prowess by each town printing a list of the great works which have originated there, or whose writers were born there. There are several attempts to cover certain portions of the subject, which have been made by the Smithsonian Institution, such as Tuckermann's *Bibliography of the spectroscope*, 1888. From the result it would appear either that the library in which Mr. Tuckermann worked was inadequate or that he did not spend time enough upon the subject. Kaiser's *Handbuch der Spektroskopie*, 1900, is more complete than this.

Thus a satisfactory bibliography of Physics is also a much to be desired thing. It does not, however, seem strange that one has not yet been compiled, for most of those who know enough Physics to do the work well find that their energy is all needed to keep up with the rapid progress and expansion of their subject. But it seems now as if the time were come when such work must be done. Men are beginning to question more than ever the basis of scientific work—to look behind the principles and laws which lie on the surface—and to inquire into the real nature of the ideas upon which their science has been founded. A satisfactory answer can only be obtained through a careful study of the history of those ideas—through a knowledge of the development which has taken place in bringing the concepts of science into their present form.

THE SCOPE OF AN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, BY AZARIAH L. ROOT.*

The phraseology of the title gives ample room for any kind of a discussion. It would be easy to rise into the realm of the ideally desirable, and soaring aloft with visions of government assistance and unlimited membership fees, from that lofty point to view the landscape o'er, and set forth in glowing colors the possibilities of such a society. I prefer, however, to keep firm on the ground of solid probability. I wish, therefore, to discuss the more prosaic questions: What should be the general ideal of such an organization? What constituency is there in America for such a society? What relation will it sustain to the Bibliographical Society of Chicago and to the American Library Association? What are some of the tasks which it might immediately undertake to accomplish?

The word bibliography has come to have in the English language two distinct and definite meanings. The earlier use of the word, according to Murray,[†] is that which gives to the word its more general meaning: "Bibliography — the systematic description and history of books, their authorship, printing, publication, editions, etc." For this meaning of the word the year 1814 is cited as the earliest date, and it is in this sense in current use to-day. It has also, however, come to have an entirely

* Previously printed in *Library journal*, August, 1902.

† Dictionary of the English language on historic principles.

different meaning, as when we speak of the "bibliography of Dickens," or the "bibliography of trusts," meaning here—I quote again from Murray—"A list of books of a particular author, printer, or company, or all of those dealing with any particular theme." For this later meaning no earlier citation is found in the dictionary than the year 1869, so that its use is really coincident with the beginnings of the modern literary movement.

Now, which of these two definitions express the thought of those who are advocates of an American bibliographical society? I cannot speak for them; but it seems to me certain that a national bibliographical society can only hope to succeed by taking the broader and more inclusive of these two definitions as its ideal. The preparation of guides for readers, even when these are extended to the dimensions of Larned's valuable bibliography of American history, would not attract the various interests which should be brought together in a national bibliographical society. The average man—perhaps I might even say the average librarian—while he readily makes use of such aids as are furnished him, is not easily induced to give them thought and financial support in their preparatory stages. The experience of the Publishing Section of the American Library Association prior to the raising of an endowment fund furnishes convincing proof of the truth of this proposition. Moreover, it would probably be found exceedingly difficult, on the one hand, to interest the scholars of the country, who ought to be brought into the membership of such an organization, in merely popular compilations; while, on the other hand, librarians could hardly be expected to retain interest in an organization which prepared only elaborate bibliographies of little use to the constituencies which these librarians serve. I shall at a later point in

the paper urge that the preparation of such popular aids be carried on by the librarians, either in connection with the Publishing Section, or through the long-contemplated Bibliography Section of the American Library Association. Suffice it here to say that, for the above reasons, and for the reasons which will appear in the discussion of the membership, I regard it as essential for the success of a national organization that it take for its field the very broadest possible idea of bibliography. The book, manuscript or printed, with its external qualities—paper, ink, type, form, and binding; in all its relations—historical, literary, or practical; and through all of its experiences—ownership, condemnation, partial destruction, enhanced value, etc.—this should be the subject which, in any or all of its phases, should interest such an organization.

Having set forth, all too briefly, the ideal which should be held by such a society, I ask, in the next place, who are likely to become members of an organization having such an aim?

First: An organization having such aims would secure, I believe, a considerable number of supporters in the ranks of the library profession. It does *not* seem to me probable that any large percentage of the members of the American Library Association are likely to be interested in such an organization. On this point we have some very practical evidence. About the time of the Waukesha convention last year announcement was made that the Publishing Board of the American Library Association would undertake the publishing of a card index to current bibliographical periodicals if sufficient subscriptions could be secured to warrant the same. After waiting some nine months I wrote to the secretary of the board to inquire as to the fate of this proposal and learned that at that time only fourteen subscriptions had been received.

Since that time the proposals have been renewed, and I trust that the necessary twenty-five subscribers are pledged to the support of the enterprise. But it is apparent from this attempt to bring out for the libraries of the country, as an aid for serious bibliographical work, a card index to the articles of the current journals in the field, that there is no very general demand among the librarians of the country for helps to aid in undertaking this grade of work. An American bibliographical society, therefore, which should take into account only the interests of librarians would certainly fail if it confined itself to serious scholarly work. There are, however, among the libraries of the country a good many who are increasingly likely to be interested in this class of work.

There are, in the first place, in all the great libraries of the country, such as the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Boston Public Library, and the John Crerar and Newberry in Chicago, one or two persons at least in each staff who are attracted by the wealth of material at their hand towards investigation and scholarly discussion. All these might be expected, I believe, to become members of a national organization. The next accessions are likely to come from the university and college libraries of the country. Many of these, as for example, Harvard, Columbia, and Johns Hopkins, have already developed among their staff men who have made distinguished contributions in the field of bibliography. Scarcely any work in America has exceeded in value that of the Harvard University Library in its "Bibliographical contributions," of which some fifty numbers have already been published. In the smaller university and college libraries the librarian at least, if not other members of the staff, is likely to have time and interest to work upon the literary treasures in his

keeping, and from such study is likely to result genuine bibliographical work.

In addition to these classes of librarians there will probably be found among the public libraries of what I may venture to call the second grade, a considerable number who will support the enterprise by becoming members, and who may possibly be induced from time to time to contribute something to the publications of the society.

The second general class of persons from whom such a society might hope to draw membership is what I will venture to designate as the student class of America, including under this head university and college professors, professional bibliographers, and private investigators. As the publications of the American Historical Association and of the Modern Language Association have already made manifest, there is always in every department of special study a small number of teachers or students with marked bibliographical tastes. The present tendency in this line, especially in history, is very marked, and there is likely to be an increasingly large number of young men in the various departments of study who will be interested in bibliographical work. These men are not sufficiently numerous in the organizations in their respective fields to organize and maintain a bibliographical section which will be in a position to publish; nor, on the other hand, would they be attracted by such a section in the American Library Association, for they would feel, in accordance with the natural attitude of scholars towards any popular movement, that any section of such a general organization as the American Library Association would be interested primarily in work of a popular nature. But they could be interested, I believe, and brought together in an asso-

ciation national in its scope, and taking the largest possible view of the field of bibliography. With the support of such men it is probable that the association would be supplied from the start with material sufficient for its purpose, so that, instead of having a lack of material of such high quality as it would wish to send out under its name, it could from the start equal in the worth of its publications other national bibliographical associations.

But both classes which I have hitherto mentioned—the librarians who might be interested in serious work in bibliography, and the scholars who might be so much interested in the bibliographical side of their work as to be brought into connection with a national bibliographical society—both of these classes together, I say, would not, in my judgment, furnish a constituency of sufficient numbers to properly support such an organization as is under discussion. A third class must be attracted and brought into membership if this association is to be large enough to do creditable work. I refer to the class which I will designate as the amateurs in bibliography, the collectors and book-hunters and rich book-lovers who do not themselves, except in rare cases, seriously undertake bibliographical work, but who are interested in books as an avocation, or who have money to purchase rare books, and therefore have a certain interest in the subject. This class is rapidly increasing in the United States, and no one should rejoice more than the librarian because of this fact, for it is one of the happy results of collecting that, although its immediate effect is to make it difficult for a library to purchase at reasonable prices the books which it so much needs, still, ultimately, the collector who has gathered rare treasures is quite as likely to bestow them upon a library as to leave them to be disposed of at auction for the benefit of his estate.

To attract this class of membership into the society, however, its publications must give evidence of large resources, be provided with plenty of facsimiles, printed on deckle-edged paper, and all that sort of thing. With the inclusion of this class of persons, however, it ought to be possible within two years' time for a national society to get a membership of, say, five hundred. If, with a membership of this size, it should, modeling its action upon that of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, make some arrangement with a periodical like the *Bibliographer* by which every member of the society received the *Bibliographer* in addition to the publications of the society, it would then be in a position to attract a large number of libraries to its membership and so still further swell its lists.

In some such way as this, and from some such classes of constituents, must a national bibliographical society find its support, and by successful planning to attract these various elements it may hope to flourish and become one of the influential organizations of the country.

It may not be out of place for me to say a word here concerning the proposition to have the Bibliographical Society of Chicago expand itself by the adoption of a new title into a national bibliographical society of the United States. No doubt it can thus expand itself, and I was at first thought inclined to regard this as the natural way of development. I am not yet wholly clear as to what is the wisest policy, but there has seemed to me to be one objection to such a course which should be considered. One who, like myself, was born in the state of Massachusetts is perhaps able to appreciate a little better than most Westerners the somewhat suspicious attitude of the East towards any culture, or any organization representing culture, which has its origin west of

the Alleghany Mountains. We laugh about this, especially those of us who live in the West, but it is, nevertheless, a curiously persistent prejudice, and it might possibly prove true that the assumption by our organization of a national title would give us the name without giving us the reality. If there be any danger of this it would seem better for this society to unite with representative librarians, scholars and book-lovers in calling a meeting for the organization of a national society at such place and time as would make sure that at the very start no suspicion or prejudice could exist towards the organization. In regard to this suggestion, however, Mr. Thomson in his paper will no doubt show us the way out.

Meeting as we do in connection with the annual meeting of the American Library Association, it may be well to add a word as to the possibility of securing the desired end by organizing a Bibliographical Section of that association rather than an independent organization. I have already expressed my own conviction that only a limited number of the librarians of the country are likely to become members of any organization whose aim is other than a purely practical one. It has also been pointed out that it would be more difficult, if not well-nigh impossible, to bring the scholars of the country into membership in a section of a popular organization like the American Library Association. The membership lists of the National Educational Association afford convincing proof of this general proposition. There are, it is true, many able college men connected with that powerful and influential popular organization, and yet how few in proportion to the great number of college officers and college teachers. And how largely those found in the membership of the

National Educational Association represent the executive rather than the scholarly side of the college. Doubtless it is a pity that this should be so, but it is a fact, and those who would advocate the formation of a national bibliographical society must take account of facts. But this situation need not discourage us. It seems to me that, even should an American bibliographical society be organized, there would still be a place for a Bibliographical Section of the American Library Association, for the two aims seem to me quite distinct. The aim of the national society would be the enlargement of knowledge in the general field by the preparation and publication of papers and the resulting discussions and committee work. The work of the Bibliography Section of the American Library Association would be, on the other hand, the preparation and publication of subject reading lists, subject bibliographies, and works of bibliographical co-operation among libraries along popular bibliographical lines. These two kinds of work do not in the least conflict with each other and could more wisely be carried on by two organizations than by one. Moreover, they appeal to two different classes of persons. The bibliographies, using the word in the narrower sense, are of chief interest to the public libraries and to the persons whose object is purely practical. The investigations of the national society would appeal more to those of scholarly tastes, and the aim of its publications would not be so directly practical, but would partake more of the work of research and of contributions to knowledge. It would be exceedingly difficult so to organize a council in a body appealing for its support to both these constituencies as to preserve an even balance, and the result would probably be that one or the other element would presently

lose its interest and drop out of the organization. It seems to me wiser, therefore, to recognize this difference in aim and interest from the very start, and appeal through the Bibliography Section of the American Library Association to those who are interested in bibliography as a practical aid, and through the American Bibliographical Society to those who are interested in bibliography as a serious study.

I come now to the fourth question: What should an American bibliographical society attempt? Here there is room for an infinite difference of opinion. I would make but a suggestion or two.

First: It should attempt work in various lines such as will attract and keep the interest of the various classes of its constituents which I have indicated. There should be work of the scholar's type for the scholar, collations of Americana and other rare books for the collector, and work in the line of evaluated bibliographical helps of the more scholarly sort for the classes of librarians likely to be interested in such an organization.

Second: I trust such an organization will not be unmindful of the opportunities, as yet undeveloped, in American bibliography. Until we see the first volume we cannot tell with what painstaking energy Mr. Charles Evans has wrought out his proposed bibliography of books published in America from 1637-1820, but it is perfectly safe to say in advance that the book will not be a complete list. A committee of the national society might be able to interest the librarians of the country to make a careful examination of the materials in their libraries with a view to supplementing this list and eventually to secure the publication of a final definitive list for the period mentioned.

A third want which seems to me especially pressing is a supplement to Petzholdt's "*Bibliotheca bibliographica*," which should contain a list of the bibliographies—general, national, and special—from the time of Petzholdt to the present day—a list which should be not merely a selected list, of which there are one or two already in existence, but absolutely complete, and which shall contain such scholarly and exact estimates of the titles mentioned as are to be found in Petzholdt himself. With the specialization of thought which is now going on in every department, only a national society which could secure the assistance of scholars in each branch of science could produce such a work, but if produced along the general lines laid down by Petzholdt it would be one of the most valuable bibliographical works of the twentieth century.

A history of printing in America is a great desideratum. The history by Thomas, which is still the best in the field, is nearly one hundred years old, and its latest revision has been published more than twenty-five years. Never entirely satisfactory, even in its revision, it should give place to a work more worthy of our time. To produce a satisfactory history of printing in America involves the co-operation of all the classes which I have indicated as desirable members of a national bibliographical society.

Many other lines suggest themselves, but as the actual work to be taken up will depend ultimately upon the membership and the attitude of the governing body of the organization, I refrain from further enumeration. I have tried to show the ideal of bibliography which should animate a national organization, that there is a constituency which only a national organization can

bring together, that the work to be done in bibliography is ample to occupy both a national bibliographical society and a Bibliographical Section of the American Library Association, and have hinted at some tasks which lie immediately at hand. The question immediately before us is, Shall such a society be organized?

A SUGGESTED PLAN FOR AN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, BY JOHN THOMSON.*

At the last meeting of the American Library Association I submitted a few suggestions as to what measures in my judgment seemed likely to foster the formation of a national bibliographical society. These suggestions were kindly received, and the matter was referred to a committee of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, to report at a similar meeting to be held in connection with the 1902 meeting of the Association. I am now deputed to offer a few remarks on "a plan for an American bibliographical society with local branches."

The suggestions made during the course of the past year have indicated, so far as I know, a nearly unanimous desire, on the part of those who have expressed an opinion, to make the Bibliographical Society of Chicago a national association rather than a society of any one or more place or places. On duly weighing the suggestions made, two important points seem to be raised. According to the views of a minority, it is wished to see the society made a wing or department of the American Library Association. It has also been made plain that in the judgment of a larger number of persons, to whose opinions we are generally willing to give weight, the society ought to be made an independent organization.

The best results will probably be obtained if a course of action is adopted which will take the best thoughts

*Previously printed in *Library journal*, August, 1902.

from each of these suggestions, and work them out to a logical conclusion, adopting neither in toto, but welding the two suggestions into one so as to preserve the best results from each. I would, therefore, suggest that the society be made a national association, having headquarters at Washington. I suggest selecting Washington, because it is the city of the Library of Congress, which must in due course of time become the national library of America, just as the British Museum is the national library of England and the Bibliothèque Nationale is the center of library life in France. The duties to be accomplished at the headquarters would be to suggest work to the branches or cognate institutions affiliated with this national association, and to gather together the reports and papers of all the branches, so that when collected they might be printed in an annual report, to be entitled the Transactions of the American Bibliographical Society. The staff at headquarters would have to comprise a managing director and such colleagues as should be from time to time found necessary to attend to different departments. Who would be willing or have the necessary time to devote to this important task would be a serious problem; but that some person working in one or other of the great literary institutions of Washington could be found is hardly to be doubted. The management should be, I think, intrusted to the managing director, without any boards or committees; but he should be empowered to gather around himself, as necessity should dictate, subordinate directors to take charge of particular departments. Every person undertaking any work in this society should be held absolutely responsible for that which he undertakes.

In this way, each person undertaking a duty would be bound to attend to the work he promised to per-

form, and would not be able to shift the responsibility from himself to some one else, on the ground that he was only a member of some committee, and thought that the others were doing the work. The remaining and of course the most important part of the work would be that the managing director should enlist the interest of some one or more persons in each of the great cities where great libraries and great collections of books exist, to undertake bibliographical work according to the possibilities of the special location, but always with a special view to blending the whole work together in the annual report and other publications of the society. These separate branches, or whatever might be the title finally decided on, in the various cities other than that in which the headquarters shall be stationed, would have, if I may so suggest, a subordinate or similar constitution, and some one managing sub-director who should search out and find others willing to co-operate in bringing about the best results for bibliographical work in these separate localities. The meetings of the branches would necessarily be frequent; probably not less than eight meetings in a year ought to be held by each branch, but it probably would be better to restrict the meeting of the national society to one in each year. Personally, I feel that it had better be an independent organization; but application could be made to the American Library Association to have this work recognized by it. The annual meeting of the American Bibliographical Society could be held at the time and in the place agreed upon as the location for the meeting of the American Library Association. I have purposely avoided going into any details, as it is my desire to submit this simply as a broad outline of a plan, and to enable others to offer suggestions, and if possible to evolve a suitable organization. The

value of such a society will be great to libraries and library workers. I would recommend that a small committee of three be appointed to draft rules and regulations for the government of such an institution, and to devise a plan for raising the necessary funds for carrying out the same, and that the power to act and organize the American Bibliographical Society with local branches be entrusted to that committee, it being recorded as the opinion of this meeting that all the steps taken during the current year shall be tentative only, with a view to reconsideration and better adaptation of the ends to the means at the next meeting of the American Library Association, and that the committee confer with the proper authorities of the association on the subject, by which time at least the scheme ought to have been partially developed, and those interested in the matter may be able to say what steps should be taken to better and further the important objects which seem to attach to the suggestion of such a society as we have been considering during the past one or two years.

PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AN INSTITUTE FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH,* BY AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.

During the days of the discussion of the co-operative cataloging scheme a couple of years ago I presented to the Co-operation Committee of this association a plan for a complete American bibliography. This plan was based on the same mechanical principle as the cataloging plan presented by the committee at the Montreal conference, and provided for electrotypes to be made for single entries from which cards could be printed, and which also could be used for printing of bibliographies in book form, to be kept up to date by cumulative supplements and cumulative new editions. My scheme for carrying on the work was also largely the same as that suggested by the committee. The entries were in all cases to be made from the books or articles themselves, not from other bibliographies; and the work, it was suggested, might be done in co-operation by a number of leading libraries, the field of work to be divided according to the particular strength of each co-operating library. For instance, the literature previous to 1700 might be recorded by the New York Public Library; the copyrighted books after 1870 by the Library of Congress; the literature of medicine by the Surgeon General's Library; that of geology by the United States

* Address delivered before American Library Association, Magnolia, Mass., June 19, 1902; reprinted from its Proceedings.

Geological Survey, etc. A central bureau was to be established for the supervision of the work, for revision as well as for the printing and distribution of the cards and other publications. The cost of organization and maintenance until the undertaking would be self-supporting should be borne, it was suggested, by such national scientific societies as might be interested in a scheme for an American bibliography.

The Co-operation Committee expressed in its report to the Montreal conference the hope that the plans for the co-operative cataloging of books for libraries might pave the way for this plan. The Bibliographical Committee of the American Historical Association, to which it had also been presented, did not see its way to make any recommendation.

Now, the failure of the scheme was inherent in the proposition that institutions, libraries and societies, founded to further certain defined interests, should spend a part of their income in the interest of an undertaking which, while touching their own interests at more than one point, could not be said to be part and parcel of their work. And it soon became clear to me that the only way to solve the problem would be through the establishment of a separate richly endowed institution, unaffiliated but working in harmony and co-operation with other institutions of learning. There are institutes established for chemical, medical, archæological research. The bibliographical needs of American scholarship require the foundation of an institute for bibliographical research to be a center for investigation and publication in the field of bibliography. The chief undertaking of such an institute, around which all its other work should center, would naturally be the American bibliography, conceived in its very broadest sense, not merely covering

literary productions printed in America, but also such dealing with American subjects and written by American authors, even though printed elsewhere. It would naturally be divided in two parts, the bibliography of current literature and the retrospective bibliography of the past. The retrospective work should be taken up piecemeal, so that the most useful and so far most inadequately treated subjects be undertaken first. For instance, to attempt a complete bibliography of medicine, of American ethnology or geology, would be futile; on the other hand, bibliographies of photography, of education, of fine art, of engineering, of bibliography, would be invaluable. All the work of the Institute should be conceived as parts of its American bibliography, and as far as non-American publications are recorded, as parts of the universal bibliography which for centuries has been the dream of bibliographers and librarians. If I claim that this universal catalog is possible, I base this assertion on the mechanical principle of electrotype plates for single entries. By using such plates, as much of the work as is completed will always be ready for use, and nothing will ever be out of print.

The bibliographical problem is international. An attempt to solve it from the standpoint of a single country, without proper attention to its international aspects, will invite failure. If a bibliographical institute be founded in this country it must seek co-operation with similar institutions in other countries. Such institutions are the "International Catalogue of Scientific Literature" with headquarters in London, the *Institut international de bibliographie* in Brussels, the *Concilium bibliographicum* in Zurich. In this country various independent undertakings might be co-ordinated with each other and with the work of the Institute; for instance,

the bibliographical work of the Library of Congress and the various government bureaus at Washington, the co-operative cataloging of articles in serials carried out under the auspices of the Publishing Board of the American Library Association, the several bibliographies of individual states in the Union published by the American Historical Association.

The functions of an institute for bibliographical research would by no means be exhausted with the preparation and publication of bibliographies according to a preconceived plan. Arrangements should be made by which students engaged in research might have special bibliographies prepared for them. It is highly important that literary investigators be relieved from the preliminary work of compiling bibliographies of the subject they intend to investigate, thus saving valuable time that would be more profitably spent in productive labor. There should also be provision for temporary employment of students and bibliographers, desirous of carrying out some special bibliographical work under the auspices of the institute. These would be paid on the basis of the salaries of the permanent officers of the institute, and the result of their work published by it in its regular style, on cards and in books, printed from electrotypes. And societies such as the proposed American bibliographical society might make arrangements to have the institute issue their bibliographical monographs.

These are the three functions of modern bibliography: recording, classification, and evaluation. And the organization of the institute should be planned so as to include all three. For each publication recorded there should be supplied :

(1) A bibliographically accurate copy of the title, with collation and other descriptive notes, such as contents.

(2) The indication of its place in some recognized system of scientific classification.

(3) A note of evaluation telling the bias of the author, whether the work be based on original research or is a compilation from secondary sources, and whether it is a popular account or intended for students only.

The staff of the institute would ultimately consist of a director, a chief clerk or business manager, a number of special bibliographers, scientific men, each a specialist in some field of research, and also trained in biographical method, with cataloguers, indexers, and other clerical assistants.

The cost of an institution of this kind must be considerable. The only way to establish it must be by a large endowment, and by its utilizing existing institutions in all ways possible. The Co-operation Committee estimated in its report to the Montreal conference the cost of preparing and printing cards at eighty-five cents per title, including electrotypes; if the work of the proposed bibliographical institute be estimated on the same basis, we might calculate the cost at from one dollar to one and a half dollar per title. While the ultimate endowment must be considerable, the work should begin in a moderate way. There must be a great deal of experimenting, a great deal of feeling one's way, before the sure path be found and an adequate basis made for the work. Some revenue might be expected from the sale of cards and book publications. The institute would, however, not be a commercial undertaking, and the prices of its publications should cover only the cost of stock, printing, and distribution.

Perhaps the first step towards founding the institute would be to offer post-graduate instruction in bibliography to scientists who desire to make it their life work,

whether they be candidates for positions with the institute or wish to prepare themselves for biographical work in general or for leading positions in libraries.*

*Other papers by the same writer on this subject:

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I. The name of this Society shall be the BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO.

II. The objects of the Society shall be :

1. To encourage and promote bibliographical study and research.
2. To compile and publish special bibliographies.
3. To arouse interest in the history of books and libraries.

III. The affairs of the Society shall be in the hands of a council, consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other members, to be elected at the annual meeting of the Society.

IV. Any vacancy in the council occurring during the year may be filled by the council until the next annual meeting.

V. The duties of the council shall be :

1. To keep itself informed of the bibliographical work that is being done by members of the Society, and by others.
2. To consider plans and make recommendations as to publications to be undertaken by the Society.
3. To call the attention of members to bibliographical work which, in the opinion of the council, ought to be undertaken.
4. To arrange for reports and papers to be submitted and read at the meetings of the Society.

VI. Any person interested in bibliography, who has received the recommendation of the council, may be elected a member of the Society by a majority vote of those present.

VII. The annual fee shall be two dollars, to be paid in October. Members shall on payment of twenty-five dollars be considered life members, and be exempt from further fees. Members whose fees have been in arrears more than one year shall be dropped from the Society.

VIII. Members who have selected some subject for bibliographical research shall inform the council thereof as early as possible, and be prepared to report on the same at some meeting of the Society.

IX. The Society shall meet at least four times a year, at such time and place as the council may determine, for the purpose of receiving reports on the progress of the work undertaken by members, and to listen to some paper on a subject connected with the purpose of the Society. One meeting shall be held in April, and this shall be the annual meeting for election of the council. At this meeting the outgoing council shall submit an annual report of the work of the Society.

X. Additions or amendments to these by-laws shall be proposed in writing to the council. Such propositions shall be voted upon at the next meeting of the Society, and the Secretary shall give notices thereof in the call for the meeting.

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